

A COLOUR ATLAS OF SMALL ANIMAL DERMATOLOGY

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"A colour atlas of small animal dermatology" has been compiled with the premise that the eye is the most important diagnostic aid in the diagnosis of skin disorders. It is a colour photographic record of common ectoparasites, and skin lesions and diseases of dogs and cats. A concise caption explains the purpose of each photograph.

The book starts with a valuable contribution on primary and secondary skin lesions as well as a very short section on the configuration of lesions. Skin diseases of the dog and cat are then presented in sections according to the different aetiologies.

Although the majority of photographs are of an acceptable standard, some photographs, in my opinion, need to be replaced in future editions: The photographs of lice infestation of a kitten; tick infestation in a dog; an adult *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite and fly myiasis are examples. The inclusion of more photographs in which complete pictures of the patients are given to illustrate the size and distribution of lesions, could only add to the value of the book.

The book may add to the confusion which exists regarding the terminology used in skin disorders: "Allergic perioral dermatitis" is used to describe an allergic reaction to a plastic feeding bowl; and "juvenile pyoderma" to describe a "clinical entity in puppies... aetiology... unknown but initial lesions are allergic in type...". An attempt at standardisation in further editions may be appropriate.

The authors have certainly embarked on a commendable mission. Skin diseases are common in all veterinary practices. The updating and expansion of this text on a regular basis would certainly make it a valuable diagnostic aid in any small animal practice, especially when used in combination with a standard text on veterinary dermatology (as recommended by the author).

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